

**AGENCY REQUEST FOR
A/E SELECTION COMMITTEE ACTION
August 2019**

AGENCY: Department of Natural Resources

DNR Contact: Nathan Benoy, Phone (715) 490-3097, Email: Nathan.Benoy@wisconsin.gov

LOCATION: Gresham Ranger Station, Village of Gresham, Shawano County

PROJECT REQUEST: Request the services of a professional Architectural and Engineering (A/E) design firm to construct a new forestry ranger station and warm storage facility.

PROJECT NUMBER: 19G31

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project will construct a joint ranger station in the Village of Gresham in Shawano County to replace the Bowler ranger station and consolidate staff from three locations. The ranger station will have office space for 6 FTE employees and 6 LTE employees, allowing the Department to consolidate the personnel from the Bowler Ranger Station, and the Keshena and Shawano Offices, into this joint ranger station in Gresham. The Gresham Station will have a heated 4-bay drive-thru garage for two Type 8 engines, two Type 6 engines, and two heavy unit Type 4 engines with attached trailer that carries a tractor/plow unit. The heated garage will also be used as an Incident Command Post (ICP) in the event of multiple or exceptionally large fires or disasters within the Fire Response Units (FRUs) for the joint station.

JUSTIFICATION:

Forest Protection staff from three different offices and stations (Bowler, Keshena, Shawano) will be combined into one joint facility. This consolidation of the staff and equipment into this replacement ranger station in Gresham will provide cost-savings in maintenance and operations, equipment and building repairs, staff safety, safe equipment operation, and streamlined fire protection team efficiencies.

Bowler Ranger Station is 81 years old and in need of substantial updates and major repairs. The station hosts an additional 2-bay garage that was constructed in 1983. The garage does not provide sufficient space to offset the increased size of today's fire control equipment standards. The new dual wheeled 4x4 (Type 6/7 engine) that will replace the current engine will not fit in this facility. The new dozer has less than an inch of clearance under the garage door when loaded on the trailer. When the heavy unit is in the facility, there is less than a minimum of 28 inches of clearance around the unit. Accessing the vehicles with these tight clearances has resulted in damage to clothing and fire control PPE and is also a safety hazard for staff.

In Keshena, DNR forestry personnel are stationed within a fire control building owned by the Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE). The Department has an MOU and upon expiration, MTE has indicated they intend to charge rent to the DNR for a too-small office space, and heated storage for one Type 6 engine and one heavy unit. In Shawano, Forestry has one employee in a leased facility shared by other DNR programs. This project will allow the Forestry Program to eliminate rental costs from these facilities and move staff and valuable equipment into a consolidated forest protection facility.

The Gresham site is centrally located between the Bowler and Keshena FRUs and the replacement station will be approximately 8 miles east of the current Bowler station and 9 miles west of the current Keshena station. Hwy 29 (4 lane) is located 4 miles to the south of Gresham and provides excellent east/west navigation. In addition, County Highways A, G, and VV provide adequate routes of travel from Gresham into both the Bowler and Keshena fire response units. Gresham is the only city/village that is located between the two stations that will meet the needs of both FRUs and its central location will help the Department respond and protect the surrounding forests, wildlands, and communities.

PROJECT BUDGET:

Construction	
Design	
DFD Mgt.	
Contingency	
TOTAL	\$2,221,700

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

A/E Selection	August 2019
Design Report	March 2020
SBC Approval	April 2020
Bid Opening	July 2020
Construction Start	September 2020
Project Closeout	May 2021

A/E QUALIFICATIONS: A well-qualified design firm for this project shall have experience designing, permitting, and constructing similar facilities following applicable state codes, regulations, and standards.